

# Wayne Allard

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For Release:  
June 7, 2005

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## **SENATOR ALLARD SECURES FUNDING FOR MULTIPLE COLORADO CONSERVATION PROJECTS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) secured funding for a long list of conservation projects in Colorado in the FY 2006 Interior Appropriations Bill, which the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee approved Tuesday.

“Despite an incredibly tight budget year, we still managed to provide the means to carry out and continue numerous conservation projects vital to our state,” said Senator Allard, a member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Interior Appropriations Bill provides funding for the following Colorado projects:

- \* \$1.5 million for the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area in Western Colorado so the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) can complete acquisition and protection of nearly 1,500 acres of private holdings;
- \* \$500,000 to acquire land for the High Elk Corridor in the Elk Mountains between the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness Area and the Raggeds Wilderness Area in the White River National Forest. The FY 2006 funding will complete the federal portion of this purchase, with the remaining portion to be purchased with privately raised funds;
- \* \$1.5 million for Banded Peaks Ranch in Southern Colorado to complete a two-phase conservation easement. Protection of this area compliments the Navajo River Protection Plan and helps insure sustained flows of clean water downstream;
- \* \$982,000 for the Platte River Fish Recovery, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Colorado Department of Wildlife cooperative program to implement the recovery of four species, the Whooping Crane, Piping Plover, Least Tern, and Pallid Sturgeon, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act;
- \* \$691,000 for the Upper Colorado Fish Recovery, a four-state program operating on all reaches of the Upper Colorado River Basin and the San Juan River. This program serves as an Endangered Species Act compliance mechanism for more than 800 water projects on the Upper Colorado River, including all major Front Range water development initiatives.

MORE

The FY 2006 Interior Appropriations Bill also includes a substantive increase in funding for the Department of Interior's Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which Senator Allard secured.

"We obtained \$35 million above and beyond the amount asked for by the President in his FY 2006 budget request," said Senator Allard, a member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. "This is \$8.2 million more than was provided last year for PILT."

The PILT program provides federal payments to local governments to help offset the property tax revenue they are unable to collect because there are nontaxable federal lands within their boundaries. These payments help local governments provide services such as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations. The FY 2006 bill contains \$235 million for the program nationwide next year.

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